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CAR FIRM IN HQ U-TURN

Prodrive switches from old Hella site to purpose-built option

By Andrew Smith

MOTORSPORT firm Prodrive is to move into a purpose-built site near Banbury.

Up to 400 of its workers will move a short distance down the M40 from their current base, which is due to be redeveloped into a shopping centre.

The company had intended to move into the former Hella factory site in Banbury but after protracted planning and legal wrangles, has decided to opt for a new factory.

Chairman David Richards said: "Our current site was a familiar landmark in Banbury for the millions of motorists who have driven up and down the M40 over the last 30 years.

"I'm pleased to have spent a considerable amount of time assessing various sites in the Banbury area and our new location will command a similarly high profile alongside the motorway.

"This larger facility will allow Prodrive to



Prodrive chairman David Richards

expand into new and exciting arenas beyond motorsport over the coming years."

Construction of the new building, less than a mile from its present home, will start within weeks and the company hopes to move in by March 2015.

But staff have already started to move out of part of the current premises, as work on the Banbury Gateway retail park is due to start any day.

Company spokesman Ben Sayer said: "We will be in a smaller space until next March. There was a spare building on the site which we have converted into offices and part of the distribution centre has been converted into workshops."

Originally it had been planned to move over 200 staff from the company's other base at Milton Keynes to the new Banbury HQ.

But because of the protracted planning row over the shopping centre, the lease on the facility had to be renewed, so they will stay put.

The new Banbury facility will be Prodrive's third move, having been originally based at Silverstone in 1984, before transferring to Banbury in 1986.

At that point, the company's single building housed its then BMW race and rally teams and looked out on to fields. It wasn't until 1991 that the M40 was extended from Oxford to Birmingham, passing right in front of the company's headquarters.

Over the last 28 years, the company has expanded from one to 12 separate buildings.

Mr Richards added: "While we are best known for motorsport, this represents just a third of our turnover.

"Walk around our site today and you will see Aston Martin racing cars and Mini rally cars being prepared in workshops right next to advanced active aero systems for road-going supercars; interior modules for luxury cars; advanced hybrid systems; and even the next generation of control systems for racing yachts."



An artist's impression of how the new Prodrive HQ could look



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InBRIEF

Floating shops to drop anchor

■ **BRITAIN'S** biggest floating market will visit Banbury this weekend. Taking place along the Oxford Canal towpath, next to Spiceball Park, the three-day event will see fashion, jewellery and handmade gifts sold from nine trade boats.

Play update

■ **WORK** to improve the New Street recreation ground in Chipping Norton is nearing completion. Contractors working for the town council were constructing new paths, levelling the under-sevens' play area, laying a new soft surface and building a play tunnel.

Food fair date

■ **THIS** year's Banbury Food Fair will be held in Market Place on Saturday, August 17. The 10.30am-to-4.30pm event, which will feature producers from the town and surrounding area, also offers demonstrations.

Show's stars

■ **ORGANISERS** of the Big Festival at Kingham, hosted by Alex James and Jamie Oliver, has announced its headliners. The three-day music and food festival, will launch on Friday, August 29. Topping the bill will be Fatboy Slim on Saturday, Jamie Cullum on Sunday and entertainment for children includes *CBeebies* presenter Justin Fletcher. Tickets are now on sale. For further information visit thebigfestival.com

InCOURT

■ **RYAN KANE**, 29, of Duke Street, Banbury, admitted drink-driving on Middleton Road and Woburn Close Banbury on March 11. Had 57mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath over the legal limit of 35mcg. Banned from driving for 40 months, fined £110 and ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **NATHAN POUND**, 23, of Hearthway, Banbury, admitted assaulting a man in Broad Street, Banbury, on June 17. Given an 18-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £15 victims' surcharge and £40 costs.

■ **COREY JONES**, 20, of Boxhedge West, Banbury, admitted causing criminal damage to a door and a window in Bretch Hill, Banbury, on

June 10. Fined £250 and ordered to pay £100 compensation, a £25 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **BARRY WILLIAMS**, 33, of West Street, Banbury, admitted causing criminal damage to an Audi TT and attempting to damage a Renault Clio in Banbury on May 18. Given a two-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £300 compensation and £35 costs.

■ **JACOB POWNEY**, 21, of no fixed address, admitted stealing £46 of fish products from Marks & Spencer in Banbury on June 10. Fined £40 and ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge.

■ **JAKE PREEDY**, 22, of Mascord Road, Banbury, admitted causing criminal damage to custody clothing owned by Thames Valley Police on February 11 at Banbury Police Station, Warwick Road,

Banbury. Given a six-month conditional discharge and told to pay £10 compensation and a £15 victims' surcharge.

■ **MATTHEW GIBNEY**, 36, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted speeding in excess of a 30mph speed limit in Aynho Road, Adderbury, on December 7. Fined £100 and told to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Given three points on driving licence.

■ **ANDREW SMITH**, 36, of no fixed address, admitted criminal damage of a car wing mirror at Banbury Railway Station on July 16. Ordered to pay £200 compensation and £85 costs.

■ **MATTHEW MARTIN**, 42, of Chamomile Place, Banbury, admitted stealing six DVDs worth £40.45 from BHS on Smith on June 12. Fined £35

and ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £25 costs.

■ **MAX MCTAGGART**, 30 of no fixed address, admitted possessing heroin, a Class-A drug, in Gillett Road, Banbury, on April 4. Fined £35, a £20 victims' surcharge and £25 costs.

■ **DEIRDRE STINDT**, 52, of Hawke Lane, Bloxham, admitted driving at 56mph on the 30mph Stratford Road in Buckingham on February 18. Fined £300 and ordered to pay a £30 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Licence endorsed with six points.

■ **THOMAS THATCHER**, 20, of Bradshaw Close, Steeple Aston, admitted being drunk on Banbury High Street on June 28. Given a 12-month conditional discharge, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ Hospital team broadcasts special shows to mark 50 years on the air

Radio's golden sounds



Ted Hanson – Radio Horton's station administrator and founder member

ON July 7, 1964, patients at the Horton General Hospital turned on their radios to listen to strains of the Westminster Waltz, followed by the words "This is Radio Horton Calling".

Now, 50 years later, Radio

By Alex Wynick

Horton is still going strong, providing music, news and interviews for the Banbury hospital's patients.

It was all started by journalist Ted Hanson, now 76, and the late Graham Wilton.

The current station manager, Stewart Green, said: "It was something for the patients to do, because there was nothing else to entertain them in hospital.

"To start with it was just one show a week for an hour. But it grew and grew as patients asked for more."

He added: "Our aim is still to entertain the patients.

"We go round the wards three times a week to talk to patients, get requests and messages.

"We go to the children's ward every week and the kids have

their own little show.

"It's a way of helping people together."

To celebrate its 50th birthday, the station went on a tour across Banbury, catching up with local celebrities and supporters.

The special guests included *Countryfile's* John Craven, X-

Factor voiceover star Peter Dickson and Banbury's MP Sir Tony Baldry.

Mr Green, 56, said: "We went out and about in the community. We had a lot of guests popping in with celebrity messages.

"It was a massive success." Radio Horton took a

technical leap when it went online in 2010, broadcasting 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr Green, from Banbury, said: "We always felt there was a need for Radio Horton to be broadcast to the wider community."

In just ten months more than 20,800 listeners tuned in online.

He added: "This just proves that we are delivering a service people can't get anywhere else."

Earlier this year, the station was named as the best organisation at the Banbury Community Awards.

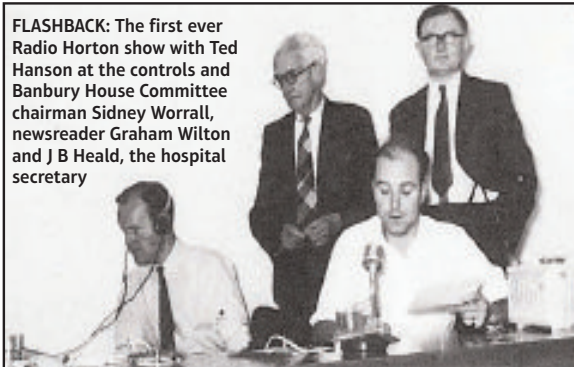
Fifty years after it was founded, this was the first award the station had won.

Mr Green, who has worked at the radio station since 1982, said: "We were very pleased.

"It's a great recognition for all of the hard work and team effort that we put in."

Listeners can tune in online at radiohorton.co.uk

FLASHBACK: The first ever Radio Horton show with Ted Hanson at the controls and Banbury House Committee chairman Sidney Worrall, newsreader Graham Wilton and J B Heald, the hospital secretary



County's shale gas drilling licences now up for grabs

COMPANIES are now able to apply for licences to prospect for shale gas in Oxfordshire.

A map released by the Department of Energy and Climate Change includes areas in North Oxfordshire as available for "fracking".

Earlier this month it was reported that an expanse in the north of the county had been identified as a possible source of shale gas by the British Geological Survey.

The area includes Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. Licences have to be granted before drilling could begin.

"Fracking" is a method of shale gas

extraction that involves drilling deep into the ground and pumping water, sand and chemicals into the rock to fracture it and so release reserves of gas and oil.

Now businesses can bid for these licences. Applicants must be able to show they understand the "environmental sensitivities" to the area.

Business and Energy Minister Matthew Hancock said: "Unlocking shale gas in Britain has the potential to provide us with greater energy security, jobs and growth.

"We must act carefully, minimising risks, to explore how much of our large resource can be recovered to give the UK a new

home-grown source of energy.

"As one of the cleanest fossil fuels, shale gas can be a key part of the UK's answer to climate change and a bridge to a much greener future.

"Newly published guidance will protect Britain's great national parks and outstanding landscapes.

"Building on the existing rules, which ensure operational best practices, are implemented and robustly enforced.

Ultimately, done right, speeding up fracking will mean more jobs and opportunities for people and help ensure long-term economic and energy security for our country."

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Lighting a candle to remember WW1 victims

THE people of north Oxfordshire are being asked to switch off their lights for an hour on Monday to commemorate Britain entering the First World War.

At 10pm the UK-wide event, Lights Out, will call for a big switch-off, with people asked to burn a solitary candle or lamp in memory of soldiers.

Cherwell District Council will honour the event at Bodicote House.

George Reynolds, the council's deputy leader, said: "The district council is supporting the national Lights Out event by making sure all of our buildings' lights are extinguished.

"We'd like to see as many residents and businesses as possible in the area join in the commemoration."

To find out more about Lights Out and to register to take part in the event, see 1418NOW.org.uk

Feeding the Front Line, Banbury Museum's new exhibition, was officially opened yesterday.

Dr Andrew Murrison MP, the Prime Minister's Special Representative for the Centenary Commemorations of the Great War and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, attended the afternoon event.

The exhibition will be open until November 15 and looks at the role Banbury played in WW1.

Meanwhile, other commemorative events on include new stained glass windows being unveiled at Banbury Town Hall, in Bridge Street, on Monday

There will also be an exhibition on the Red Cross and a book launched at the event.

Town council leader Kieron Mallon said: "Banbury has a proud military history and the town played a major part in the First World War.

"Many people from the town and nearby villages lost their lives on foreign battlefields.

"Others worked in a huge munitions factory and Red Cross nurses treated injured soldiers in a makeshift hospital in West Street.

"The nurses also ran a refreshment centre at

Banbury railway station for troops travelling to and from the war zones.

"August 4 will be a fitting tribute to everyone involved in the war."

The RT Rev Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester, will bless the windows – one of which is dedicated to the First World War – at 7.30pm.

At 8.30pm a procession will march to St Mary's Church, in Horsefair, before a vigil service starts at 9pm.

From 9.30pm the names of those who died in the war will be recited before the vigil in Westminster Abbey is broadcast from 10pm.

The town council will also publish *Banbury – The History and the Heritage of World War One*, a free book about the town's role in the war effort.

Town councils, parish councils and community groups in Cherwell district can ask for a slice of a £20,000 fund to restore war memorials.

Cherwell District Council made grants of up to £2,500 available to clean, repair and improve the inscriptions on memorials for each applicant.

Its financial leader, Ken Attack, said war memorials were permanent reminders of the sacrifices made.

He said: "It's fitting that we should do what we can to make sure they are kept in pristine condition and commemorate the sacrifice made in both world wars."

The fund will be available until March 31, 2015. Groups which want to apply should call 01295 221724 or email nicola.riley@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

The tomb of the unknown soldier in Westminster Abbey, London



Anger at illegal flytipper

A CHERWELL council chief has hit out after a man was given a £370 court bill for flytipping.

Tony Ilott, in charge of the district council's clean and green team, said: "Flytipping and litter continue to be listed among residents' top complaints, yet if it were not for people like this man, this problem would not exist as it is entirely avoidable.

"It doesn't matter what the circumstances are; fly tipping will never be tolerated and we will continue to seek to punish those who think different."

Mitchell Brash, of Deacon Way, was caught out after letters addressed to his home were discovered amongst rubbish he had dumped.

The 22-year-old was ordered to pay a £50 fine, £50 legal fees, £250 clean up costs and a £20 victims' surcharge.

Cherwell's environmental officers found plastic sacks of rubbish containing household waste left around the back of Deacon Way garage block.

Brash told officers he could not take the rubbish to the tip because he did not have a car.

Brash appeared at Banbury Magistrates on July 22.

■ New scheme not listed on 'Local Plan' 400-home bid is put before civic planners

PLANS for a new housing development of up to 400 homes, infrastructure and public open spaces in Banbury have been submitted to Cherwell District Council.

Parcels of land on an 18.3-hectare agricultural land site south of Salt Way and west of Bloxham Road have been selected for the development.

"Infrastructure, services and public spaces" are also planned for the site, which is currently only in an outline form, but full details have not yet been given.

A mix of detached, semi-detached and terrace houses are

By Helen Wright

being proposed for the site which will mostly be two- or two-and-a-half storeys high.

The application states there will be around 35 homes per hectare and layout has been "based on analysis of the local street pattern" and "local character".

Around 120 units – 30 per cent – will be affordable housing and the rest private.

Parking will be provided in plots, garages and car ports and additional parking will be provided along internal roads.

It would be less than 2km from

the centre of the town, around 15 to 20 minutes walk away.

The designs which have been put forward are not part of Cherwell's Local Plan – the blueprint for future development – which is still under discussion.

The Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment has identified a need for around 1,140 dwellings per year in the district between 2011 and 2031.

The plans for the housing development were submitted last week by Savills on behalf of Mr M Horgan and Barwood Strategic Land II LLP.

They can be viewed at www.cherwell.gov.uk

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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InBRIEF**Teens are bailed over car thefts**

■ **THREE** teenagers have been arrested in connection with thefts from vehicles in Banbury. It follows an incident in which items including sat navs, CDs and sunglasses were stolen from unlocked vehicles in Highlands and the Hanwell Fields estate between 10.30pm on Sunday, July 20, and 2.30am the following day. Two women, aged 18 and 19, and a 16-year-old boy, were arrested on Monday of last week on suspicion of theft. They have been released on police bail until Thursday, August 14. Police have asked residents to check whether any other valuables are missing from their vehicles. Contact the police on their hotline number, 101.

Bins go on sale

■ **RECYCLING** bins will have their price cut to £10 each during August – all part of a Cherwell District Council summer bin sale. The blue and brown bins were priced at £18. Shoppers will have their bins delivered within ten working days. Tony Iltot, the council's clean and green chief, said: "For residents who regularly find themselves trying to squash or squeeze all their rubbish into one recycling bin, they can solve this problem for just £10." Bins can be ordered from cherwell.gov.uk/binordering or call 01295 227003.

■ **Tricksters** pretend to be district council officers

Warning is issued on phone conmen

FRAUDSTERS have been operating a new cold-calling scam, offering council tax rebates of about £500 so they can obtain bank details.

Residents in the Cherwell District Council area have reported receiving calls from people claiming to be council officers who have been offering to credit money on their council tax accounts.

The caller then asks for bank details and offers a fake telephone number where people can receive more information.

Cherwell District Council is now urging residents to be on the lookout for these scammers.

George Reynolds, deputy leader of the council, said: "First and foremost we want to stress that Cherwell District Council will never, ever call a

By Helen Wright

resident and ask for bank details.

"The only time bank details will ever be discussed is if a customer calls us and provides their details in order to set up a payment or receive benefits.

"Secondly, as a rule Cherwell does not cold-call its residents about refunds and any council tax credits will be advised of in writing.

"Therefore we would urge anyone who receives a cold call from someone claiming to be from the council and asking for bank details to hang up and, if necessary, call our customer services advisors to confirm if the call is genuine."

Anyone who is unsure should call the council's customer services department on 01295 227001 or visit cherwell.gov.uk/counciltax



Cherwell's George Reynolds

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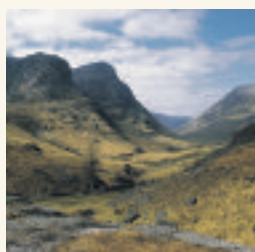
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MP's call to guard informers

PUBLIC-sector workers should be protected when "whistleblowing" over criminal conduct or wrongdoing by colleagues, Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry told Home Secretary Theresa May.

The Conservative recently spoke in the Commons after the Home Secretary said she was "prepared to consider" putting a whistleblowing code into law for the police.



MP Sir Tony Baldry

Sir Tony urged this "across Government" and said: "Any public servant should be allowed to raise concerns about criminal or other

wrongdoing in public institutions without feeling that they might be sanctioned or subject to disciplinary proceedings."

Mrs May said: "I shall certainly consider putting it on a statutory footing."



It's playtime fun in the sunshine

THOUSANDS of children and adults enjoyed the sunshine on Wednesday of last week at the fifth annual Banbury Play Day.

The event took part in People's Park with around 2,800 people enjoying free sport and storytelling.

Cherwell District Council and Banbury Play Day Steering Group organised the day.

Cherwell's deputy leader, George Reynolds, said: "Last year about 2,500 people came along to the Play Day but this year we saw a significant increase in the numbers as people made the most of the glorious sunshine."

"It was great to see the park so full and buzzing with the energy of hundreds of happy children."

InBRIEF

Facelift for post office

■ A POST office has shut for ten days next month to undergo refurbishment and modernisation. The Bodicote branch in Molyneux Drive will be closed from Tuesday, August 12 and will relocate on Friday, August 22, at 1pm. Post Office bosses say the revamp will allow customers to use the service for an extra 45 hours a week, extending operational hours from 7am to 8pm. During the closure period customers are being referred to alternative branches in Chatsworth Drive and Easington post office, at 25 Horton View.

Bins advice

■ A DOORSTEP campaign to encourage recycling will take place in Banbury next month. More than 7,000 homes will be visited around the Grimsbury, Ruscott, Neithrop and Hardwick estates by officers from Cherwell District Council. They will provide advice on food waste and what should go in each bin. Officers will wear high-vis jackets and visits will take place between 1.30pm and 6.30pm on weekdays.

■ Inspectors say achievement 'commendable'

Police praised over staffing - despite the cuts

INSPECTORS have praised Thames Valley Police for making savings, while increasing the number of officers and staff in frontline roles.

A report just released by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary for England and Wales says the force's achievement was commendable and demonstrates its ambition and commitment to keep communities safe.

Its overall judgement is that the force provides good value for money and that it's on track to save almost £59m by March 2015 - £12.4m this financial year and £10.8m in 2015/16.

The Responding to Austerity report states: "As a proportion of its overall budget, this savings requirement of 12 per cent is lower than the value for England and Wales; however, Thames Valley was a comparatively efficient force at the beginning of this spending review

By Ben Holgate

and this meant it had to work harder than some other forces to find the additional savings."

And inspectors said despite these challenges, the force had been able to deploy an extra 19 officers to local policing areas and a further 15 to child protection.

But those involved in the report said a number of officers and staff had described morale in the force as being "low" with some expressing the view that change was "being done to them".

And it said: "Despite some communication arrangements being in place, some staff and officers were unaware of issues facing the force and the rationale for the proposed changes being progressed."

TVP's overall grade of "good" was in line with 34 other police forces. Five forces were listed as

"outstanding" while three were graded as "requiring improvement".

The report also revealed that by March next year there would be a drop in the number of police officers of 77, but this was much lower than the England and Wales average of an 11 per cent drop - it's two per cent for Thames Valley.

However, the number of special constables, who are unpaid volunteers, will jump by 72 per cent to 700 by next year. Special constables have the same powers as professional police.

Chief Constable Sara Thornton said: "We are pleased that the report recognises Thames Valley Police's dedication to providing a high-quality policing service to the communities we serve."

"It reinforces our belief that we are making the right decisions, which have resulted in crime in the Thames Valley being at its lowest for 25 years. This is something we can be very proud of."

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Blast-off for space academy

PUPILS caught a glimpse of the future when they looked around the UK's first space academy.

More than 70 students attended induction days this week at Banbury Academy, in Ruskin Road, to get to know their new teachers and classmates and take part in robotic challenges.

The Space Studio Banbury, which shares a site with Banbury Academy, will specialise in teaching STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and maths – to pupils aged 14 to 18.

Headteacher Mike Grocott, who helped found the academy, said the school's aim is to encourage pupils to pursue careers in the space industry.

He told pupils during their visit last Thursday: "When everyone thinks of space they just think of astronauts, but there is so much more than that, such as engineers and designers."

"The UK has a growing space industry. We will have a ten per cent of the growth over the next ten years."

"We are not selective, as long as students have a passion for science and maths they can come."

"The students we have here could go on to

By Helen Wright

change the world."

So far 77 pupils have signed up to start studying this autumn and Mr Grocott said they had space for around 300 pupils.

Despite studying specialised subjects, students will still follow the National Curriculum to gain GCSE and A-level qualifications.

They will also study English Literature, English Language and a foreign language.

Students will learn via "project based learning", he said, showing how science is applicable to the real world.

Head of science Hayley Flood said: "It is a wonderful thing for the students to be able to do."

"Science is the ultimate question really – to find out where we come from and where we are going."

"It has been a lovely couple of days getting to know everyone one. They have been really great."

So far, the make-up of the new academy is approximately 4/5 boys to 1/5 girls and both Mr Grocott and Miss Flood want to encourage more female students to join the school.

Miss Flood said: "There are lots of women doing amazing things in science and it is our job to expose this fact."

"There are plenty of role models out there."

Bryony Clifton, 14, will start at the Space Academy in September.

She said: "I want to study physics when I go to university and this will provide me with lots of experience."

"I thought the courses seemed interesting and it will help me when I apply for university."

Mr Grocott added: "I have started this from scratch and now it is all coming to a crescendo."

"It is like the last 200 metres in a marathon, and we are about to come to the finish line – then it is on to the next one."

"That next target is to make this the most successful school in the country."

Its doors – which have not yet been installed as the campus is still being built – will open on September 3.



LEFT: Head Mike Grocott, with a model of the space shuttle

BOTTOM LEFT: Robotics trainer Ben Watts works with Bryony Clifton

BELOW: Matthew Heaton-Biggs, left, and Feng Zhong build a robot, watched by Hayley Flood

OX68804



Lessons in how to save someone's life

PEOPLE in Banbury will be taught how to save a life as the St John Ambulance is planning to hold a series of one-day first aid training courses.

The Essential First Aid for All Ages course, for anyone over 12, trains for a range of emergency situations including choking, bleeding and stopping breathing.

Spokesman Beth Elger said: "No one should die because they needed first aid and didn't get it."

"Only five per cent of people have had first aid training, and 41 per cent say it would take something as severe as the death of a loved one to prompt them to learn."

"These are shocking statistics and we'd like to change this, starting with our offer of training."

"At a St John Ambulance course you'll learn to be the difference between life and death. You never

know when you might need first aid – it could be at home, at work, on holiday or just out and about. It can all happen in a second."

Courses will be held at Cherwell Business Village, Banbury, on September 13 and November 1.

Sessions last three hours and cost £30.

To book a place call 0303 003 0101, email south-east-training@sja.org.uk or visit sja.org.uk

Council's sporting fun on offer during the holidays

YOUNG people are now able to take part in a number of free sports events throughout the summer, all hosted by Cherwell District Council.

Until Friday, August 29, recreation and sport "activities" will be travelling to parks in Banbury, as well as Bicester and Kidlington, to hold activities for eight- to 16-year-olds.

George Reynolds, Cherwell's

deputy leader, said: "Parents often struggle to find affordable ways to keep children occupied over the summer holidays."

"Children can simply turn up, participate in the fun and hopefully make some new friends along the way."

For more information, visit cherwell youth.org or call 01295 221803.

Vaccine bid to beat bovine TB



Dominic Dyer, of the Badger Trust and Care for the Wild

Funding leads to plan to inoculate badgers

OXFORDSHIRE badgers are set to be vaccinated against bovine TB, as the Government is now funding organisations to inoculate animals in disease-affected hotspots.

The Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme will operate in at-risk areas of the country, including Oxfordshire. As previously reported, 63 badger sets in the county were affected by TB in March alone, and farmers say

By Alex Wynick

they are struggling to contain the disease.

Somerton dairy farmer Ian Corner lost two cows in February to TB – despite the fact his cattle do not come into contact with any other cows.

He said: "If cattle have to be tested, then the wildlife should also be tested.

"All the testing and

monitoring is not controlling it. We'll have to keep living like this until some really proper action is taken to stop the spread."

Dominic Dyer, of the Badger Trust and Care for the Wild, said: "It's great to see the Government pushing ahead with this scheme.

"Badgers are no more than a minor player when it comes to bovine TB. Culling them is a completely pointless, unscientific and ultimately unsuccessful way of dealing with them, so focussing on vaccination in these key areas is a good way to go."

He said that the main problem for TB was that up to 20 per cent of the tests which showed cattle were healthy were wrong – meaning there could be thousands of infected cows hiding in herds.



Somerton farmer Ian Corner, who has lost two cows to TB



Badgers could be treated with a TB vaccine

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solid Oak. Was £789. Sale £475
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InBRIEF**Training workshop**

■ **YOUNG** people in Banbury will be able to attend an Aspire and Achive drop-in session tomorrow to learn more about further education and training opportunities. There will also be information on courses and apprenticeships, as well as practical advice for job seekers such as CV-writing sessions. John Donaldson, of Brighter Futures in Banbury, said: "We want to push the message that it is never too late to improve employability and there are numerous methods and means to do that." The event will take place at the Sunshine Centre in Edmunds Road, Banbury, from 10am to 12.30pm. Details: 01295 221575.

■ **Mice are perfect tenants in model village**

Rodents take up residence



ABOVE and BELOW: The mice make themselves feel at home

By Oliver Evans

RODENTS will be living it up in a model village, made just for them, which has just opened in north Oxfordshire.

Fairytale Farm, on the A44 near Chipping Norton, will open "Mouse Town" in a former stable building.

The miniature rural English town will have a population of ten mice, who will enjoy shops, a church, houses and village pond – while naughty ones will end up in its jail.

The attraction is tailored to be accessible for children with sensory, learning and physical disabilities.

Owner Nick Laister was inspired by daughter Olivia, 16, who has cerebral palsy.

He said: "We always try to do something different at Fairytale Farm."

"Our visitors have told us that our new attractions for 2014 have offered something they haven't seen before."

Mouse Town will be open until November 2 at the farm, which is open daily from 10am to 5pm.



ABOVE: Volunteer Eddie Fawcett is pictured at the Fairytale Farm attraction



LEFT: The village 'pond'

OX68754

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Peep behind the old battlements



LEFT: The magnificent 1,100-year-old Warwick Castle

RIGHT: An historic day out at Warwick Castle, now with the new arrival of the Horrible Histories team



AS the summer holidays begin in earnest, anyone looking for a great day out need look no further than Warwick Castle.

This year the castle celebrates its 1,100th anniversary and there are a host of events taking place over the summer to mark the occasion.

As well as jousting knights, swordsmen, the trebuchet fireball spectacular, flight of the eagles display, its dungeon and Merlin's dragon tour experience, new to the castle this year is the Horrible Histories team.

By Sam McGregor

There's a chance for visitors to meet the slimy Stuarts, vile Victorians and even the vicious Vikings. This year the castle is hosting three experience days for those who want to get something extra from their visit.

We joined a "behind the scenes" experience day, which included castle admission, all-day dining, and a two-hour personal tour of the castle – some parts usually closed to

the public. Ben was our guide and gave us a fascinating insight into former life at the castle.

We went to rooms in Guy's Tower, which are usually locked. They were unfurnished so you had to use your imagination, but former kings, servants and even a relative of Walt Disney – a prisoner in the 1600s – had stayed there.

We climbed to the top of the terrace on the mound for a stunning view of the surrounding countryside.

We used secret passages – only known to staff – and got a peek behind the state rooms.

Merlin's tower was also on our itinerary. In a small tower room filled with smoking bottles and spell books, one of Merlin's hapless assistants was looking after the secret tower, and there was even a talking dragon.

We took advantage of our all-inclusive bands and tried out the carvery in the Undercroft restaurant. The food was nice and there was plenty of it. Around the castle there was plenty of other choices for those who wanted to eat on the go. One thing is for sure, a one-day visit is not enough.

Our experience cost £150 per adult, or £112.50 for two adults, and £50 for children (up to 11). For more details or to book, visit warwick-castle.com



A jousting contest in full swing

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- Sally Godden Headteacher St. Leonard's C.E. Primary School

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or see www.wgriding.co.uk

Echoes of Spielberg's ET in a family-style fantasy

EARTH TO ECHO (PG, 91 mins)
Sci-Fi/Family/Action/Adventure. Teo Halm, Brian "Astro" Bradley, Reese Hartwig, Ella Wahlestedt, Jason Gray-Stanford. Director: Dave Green.

In 1982, ET phoned home and now another stranded extra-terrestrial requires the assistance of pint-sized heroes to safely return to the stars in Dave Green's fantastical family-oriented adventure.

Earth To Echo begs obvious similarities to Steven Spielberg's classic coming-of-age story and the 1987 fantasy *Batteries Not Included*.

Green's special effects-laden picture lacks the emotional wallop of the former and the unabashed charm of the latter, but does tread a familiar path through fresh eyes by employing the found footage format a la *Paranormal Activity*.

Characters address an omnipresent video camera, verbalising their excitement and fear as a night-time bicycle ride into the desert becomes a rescue mission of galactic proportions. "I'm Reginald. I'm a bit of an acquired taste... that's what my mom says," confesses one of the boys in his endearingly nervous introduction.

Like all examples of the genre, the lens invariably points in the right direction, regardless of realism, to capture important conversations and push forward the storyline.

"What you're about to see is what

happened to me and my friends one year ago," explains Tuck (Brian "Astro" Bradley).

In fragmented footage, we meet Tuck's best friends Alex (Teo Halm) and Reginald, aka Munch, (Reese Hartwig) after they learn that a highway construction project is going to tear apart their community of Clark County, Nevada.

The lads will have to relocate to different parts of the country, signalling the end of their balmy childhood.

On their last night together, the boys follow strange signals on their mobile phones into the desert.

"I never understood why people like the outdoors," wheezes Munch.

They uncover a friendly robot, who has become stranded on Earth, and the boys pledge to help their otherworldly friend locate the missing parts of his spaceship so he can return home.

Plucky classmate Emma (Ella Wahlestedt) joins the trio as they evade shady government officials led by Dr Lawrence Masden (Jason Gray-Stanford), who are also hunting Echo.

"He just wants to go home!" pleads one of the children.

"That will not happen," sneers Masden, "that thing is far too valuable."

Earth To Echo is a state-of-the-art ode to *ET* and its imitators that aptly odes to the technical ante for a generation that prefers to swipe at tablets and smart phones rather than go outside and play.

Green employs special effects at key junctures, but, for the most part,



Teo Halm with the alien critter, "Echo"

Picture: Relativity Media

he's reliant on the young cast to carry his film.

Halm, Bradley and Hartwig are appealing without being too winsomely cute, and there are some genuinely touching scenes of the boys choking back emotion as the enormity of the situation, and the risks, become clear.

The titular robot's personality is encapsulated in a few beeps and trills that should, if nothing else, remind audiences to keep their mobile devices switched off for the duration.

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: New Inn, Main Road, Middleton Cheney: Joe Holic.

Bringing you a great mixture of covers old and new. 9pm. 01295 710399. 9:00pm

SATURDAY: Lampit Arms, Tadmorton: C.Ody. Bringing you a mixture of covers from 60's to 80's. Free admission. 01295 780070.

SUNDAY: Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford: OSJ Ashmolean Proms. A programme of folk songs and jazz; Derek Paravicini Jazz Quartet; Derek Paravicini: Piano; Hannah Davey: Singer; Ben Holder – Jazz Violinist, Pianist and Singer; Violin; Ollie Howell: Drums. 7.30pm. Chairs £25; bring a cushion £10. 0845 680 1926.

WEDNESDAY: Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Tudor Music by Candlelight: Ravish'd by Magic. Award-winning Charivari Agréable with songs & instrumental pieces from the Golden Age of England and Spain. Charivari Agréable are Isobel

Collyer (reader and soprano), Layil Barr (recorders and bass viol) and Kah-Ming Ng (virginals). 8pm. £16, £15 (seniors), £10 (full-time students). 01865 305305.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury:

Aug 4-5, Fairport Convention. The local heroes are back for two shows on the eve of their 35th annual music festival at Cropredy. These two concerts will be the band's traditional pre-festival 'warm-ups' and will prove as popular as ever. Fairport will showcase the repertoire chosen for their set at Cropredy. 7.30pm. £24.

Box office: 01295 279002.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:

Until Aug 3, *King Lear*. Part of the Playhouse Plays Out series. To be performed in the Old Schools Quadrangle, Bodleian Library. Nothing will come of nothing. The old king, weary of royal duties,

proposes to break up his kingdom and divide it among his three daughters. But this rash generosity is cruelly repaid and Lear discovers too late the false values by which he has lived.

Tempestuous poetry shot through with touches of humour and moments of heart-rending simplicity, Shakespeare's King Lear is one of the deepest artistic explorations of the human condition. Performances 7.45pm, matinees Sun 2.30pm. £22, £20.

Box office: 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford:

Until Aug 2, *Buddy*. The Buddy Holly story. 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat 2.30pm. £12.90-£32.40+trans. fee. Box office: 0844 871 3020. **Lady Margaret Hall, Norham Gardens, Oxford:** Aug 1-Sep 13, *Macbeth*. Creation's outdoor summer Shakespeare set in the gardens at Lady Margaret Hall. Performances 7.30pm. £16.50/£22/£27. Box office: 01865 766266.

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Banbury batsman Ian Tew pictured in action

Thrilling finale by Banbury

A SPARKLING innings from Ian Tew led Banbury to a thrilling last-over victory at home to Tring Park to stay in touch at the top of Division 1.

Tew made 61 off 73 balls to provide the vital spark as Banbury, chasing 230 for victory, got home with five wickets and just two balls to spare.

Tring chose to bat first and were indebted to William Jones, who made 101 off 111 balls, to lay the platform for a formidable total.

But their other batsmen struggled to score quickly against a consistent Banbury

attack. Spinners Luke Ryan and Jimmy Phillips picked up most of the wickets, but the seamers bowled tightly too.

Banbury's reply was built around a second-wicket stand of 109 between Lloyd Sabin and the fluent Tew.

Sabin played the sheet-anchor role with 78 from 153 balls, before free-scoring Nathan Hawkes and Jonny Cater got Banbury over the line in an exciting finish.

Cater's unbeaten 37 came off 40 balls.

SCORECARD

TRING PARK

D Maddinson c West b Blanchard	26
J Hawkes st Cater b Wright	26
W Jones run out	101
A Dixon b Ryan	16
M Payne lbw Ryan	4
L Tomlinson lbw Phillips	0
J Deal lbw Phillips	18
A Partner not out	25
R Wilson c Phillips b Ryan	1
D Pratt lbw Phillips	1
S Stanway not out	3
Extras	8

Total (9 wickets, 64 overs) 229

Fall: 1-39, 2-94, 3-139, 4-143, 5-148, 6-196, 7-211, 8-217, 9-221.

Bowling: Blanchard 9-2-36-1, Manley 10-3-21-0, Wright 7-0-31-1, Ryan 22-3-71-3, Phillips 16-2-63-3.

BANBURY

L Sabin c Payne b Jones	78
D Harris lbw Stanway	1
I Tew b Pratt	61
N Hawkes c Partner b Maddinson	29
J Cater not out	37
R West c Jones b Payne	14
L Ryan not out	4
Extras	7

Total (5 wickets, 55.4 overs) 231

Fall: 1-3, 2-109, 3-155, 4-193, 5-226.

Bowling: Stanway 17-2-58-1, Pratt 13.4-2-42-1, Wilson 5-1-23-0, Payne 13-0-55-1, Deal 1-0-9-0, Maddinson 2-0-16-1, Jones 4-0-21-1.

● Banbury 25pts, Tring Park 8

HOW THEY STAND

	Division 1						
	P	W	D	L	A	Bn	Pts
H Wycombe	12	6	1	1	4	17	184
* Henley	12	6	0	2	4	12	179
Banbury	12	6	1	2	3	21	178
Slough	12	6	0	2	4	12	176
Tring Park	12	4	2	4	2	36	144
Oxford	12	4	1	5	2	28	138
Burnham	12	4	0	5	3	31	133
A Rowant	12	2	2	5	3	41	110
Harefield	12	2	0	7	3	40	108
Gerrards X	11	1	1	8	2	51	86
* pts deducted							

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19 **LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22
People want to help you this week and so doors which were previously closed to you should now open when you knock on them. The written word can help you make and save money. Read everything twice, as contracts and agreements are more long term than you'll at first think. Phone now to hear how strange names bring luck in business.

0906 585 4360 0906 585 4366

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20 **SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21
Someone who let you down will be trying to make it up to you this week and although your first instinct will be to turn them down, your chart shows you'd be wise to accept their help. Reasons why will become apparent by Tuesday. A new friendship has the potential to be so much more. Call now to hear which sign I think you're made for.

0906 585 4361 0906 585 4367

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20 **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21
You have had so much going on in your life lately when the real answer is that you need to simplify my friend. Someone you thought did not hold you in high esteem surprises you with their support and actions. Don't forget to say thank you where it's due. Give me a call now to better understand the older faces being difficult lately.

0906 585 4362 0906 585 4368

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22 **CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19
A new face is making you feel uncomfortable and you don't know how to deal with them without upsetting several people in the process. Gemini's prove good mediators in business and personal issues, so seek them out. Don't let high esteem surprises you with their support and actions. Being honest will ensure you'll get the help you need. Ring now for insight.

0906 585 4363 0906 585 4369

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22 **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18
Over the next few days you could get to find out what really happened in a close one's life that has led them to acting so distant. Just bear in mind that your first reaction counts for everything, so try to adopt an understanding nature. The Sun fills you with newfound confidence in your work. Great things can happen now. Ring for the details.

0906 585 4364 0906 585 4370

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22 **PISCES** Feb 19-Mar 20
Plans you make this week help you to move on from the stale situation which dictated much of your month so far. You're learning to say no and also realising that it doesn't make you a bad person to do so. Family confrontations help you reach new decisions concerning a close one. Ring now to hear how Mars eases the pressures.

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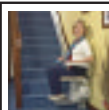
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CakeMotoring

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Best-seller makes a move upmarket

By David Duffy

UPDATING a super-successful model is possibly the scariest project that a carmaker can embark on.

The dangers of getting it wrong are all too evident, especially in the case of a vehicle like Nissan's Qashqai which has established itself as the leader in the crossover market and the company's best-selling vehicle to date.

With more than a million produced since it was launched seven years ago, it has proved a consistent hit with drivers desiring something a little different and owners of larger vehicles looking to downsize.

The new Qashqai is immediately more striking than its predecessor. Lower, wider and longer, it has a sleek, poised stance while maintaining a raised driving position.

But it is only behind the wheel that you fully appreciate the improvements made in pushing the Qashqai upmarket.

The interior design and overall fit and finish makes the Qashqai an altogether more luxurious place to be.

To match the upgrade in the interior, the Qashqai comes with a raft of new technology, covering everything from automatic emergency braking and driver attention alert, to traffic sign recognition, blind spot alert and parking assistance to take

the stress out of squeezing into tight parking spots.

The braking system scans the road ahead using a built-in radar, first giving an audible warning if the gap to the car in front is closing too fast. If the driver does not react, the brakes are automatically partially applied and finally if the gap is still closing, the brakes will be applied harder.

Nissan said most of the new Sunderland-built Qashqai's upper body was designed and engineered in Europe, which undoubtedly helps make the Qashqai feel so at home on our roads.

Quiet, smooth and easy to manage, with a smooth ride and precise handling, Nissan has even created a steering system that delivers different levels of steering feedback.

The engine line-up consists of four units: two petrol and two diesel, and every one is turbocharged to help improve power, while cutting



SMOOTH OPERATOR: The fit and finish of the Qashqai makes it much more luxurious

emissions and fuel consumption.

The 1.5-litre diesel in the test model proved refined and remarkably efficient, if just about adequate for such a substantial vehicle.

Nissan expects front-wheel-drive versions, like the test model, to account for most sales, though four-wheel-drive models will be available. Both two- and four-wheel-drive versions offer plenty of versatility, with more space inside and a larger luggage capacity and a useful split-level floor in the boot.

All these useful features will help to ensure that the new model is another nailed-on success for Nissan.

Auto facts

Model: Nissan Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta Premium
Price: £22,690
Insurance group: 14 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 74.3mpg
Top speed: 113mph
Length: 437.7cm/172.3in
Width: 180.6cm/71.1in
Luggage capacity: 15.2 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 12.1 gallons/55l
CO₂ emissions: 99g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

British Touring Car news

Circuit plans to mix motors and music

VISITORS to Rockingham can expect a party atmosphere when the Northamptonshire circuit hosts the Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship over the weekend of September 6/7. Rockingham kicks off the BTCC's end-of-season celebrations early with live music throughout Saturday's full motorsport programme of practice, qualifying and racing from the UK's premier tin-top race series.

Once the track action has finished, DJ A-Roxx will get the fans jumping with his warm-up set

before Rick Parfitt Jnr and his legendary RPJ Band take to the stage with a performance guaranteed to leave the crowd breathless, smiling and crying out for more.

One of the UK's top event bands Jelly Hammer will headline the evening with electro-pop nineties dance music, mash-ups and current pop before DJ A-Roxx closes the event with another fantastic set.

Rockingham chief executive Peter Hardman said: "There is always a great atmosphere when the BTCC comes to Rockingham. It is our flagship event and this

year we wanted to make the spectator experience even more memorable.

"Mixing motorsport with music is a fantastic way to introduce new audiences to the UK's best tin-top race series and the perfect opportunity to showcase our superb family-friendly facilities. This event offers a fantastic family weekend at a great price."

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Wheelsanddeals

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■ **VOLVO** is looking to the future of in-car technology in the 2015 XC90 by doing away with almost all buttons and replacing them with a new combination of a touchscreen, a head-up display and steering wheel-mounted thumb wheels.

■ **VOLKSWAGEN** is going even more upmarket with the all-new version of the Passat, which is due to arrive in showrooms later this year. Buyers will be able to choose a plug-in hybrid and a new 2.0-litre twin-turbo diesel.

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2006	56	HONDA JAZZ 1.4 Sport. 5 door. Black. One local private owner. Full service history. Aircon. Alloys. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows/door mirrors. Superb economical car in excellent condition. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI Clear.....	£4,150	
2006	56	PEUGEOT 207 1.4 SE. Silver. 5 door. Local car. 2 owners. Lovely car in great condition, very well appointed. Good service history. Panoramic glass roof. Aircon. Alloys. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows and door mirrors. Excellent economy from 1400cc. Sold with a new MOT full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£3,795	
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1997	P	TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 ST COUPE. Turquoise Blue. Exceptional Condition, PAS, Alloys, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Sun Roof, Local Car, HPI Clear.....	£1,295	
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Now in its sixth-generation, with even more power, efficiency and style, the BMW 3 Series Saloon embodies the concept of a sports saloon like no other car. Supplying the power are potent six-cylinder and four-cylinder petrol and diesel engines, with state-of-the-art BMW EfficientDynamics technology. The result is the BMW 3 Series Saloon with impressive dynamics and low fuel consumption.

BMW Select Representative Finance Example: BMW 316i Sport Saloon¹.

Term of agreement	47 Monthly payments	On the road cash price*	Total Deposit	Total amount of credit	Option to purchase fee [^]	Optional final payment [^]	Total amount payable	Rate of interest	
48 months	£299.00	£22,476.77	£1,999.00	£20,477.77	£10.00	£9,306.00	£25,368.00	4.9% fixed	Representative 4.9% APR

BMW Select Finance Example: BMW 316i Sport Saloon².

48 months	£349.00	£22,616.70	£00.00	£22,616.70	£10.00	£9,306.00	£25,719.00	4.9% fixed	4.9% APR
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For more information or to arrange a test drive[†], call us on **01865 319000** or visit **www.oxfordbmw.co.uk**

North Oxford Garage
Wolvercote Roundabout, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX2 8JP
01865 319000 www.oxfordbmw.co.uk

Official fuel economy figures for the BMW 3 Series Saloon Range: Urban 25.4-57.6mpg (11.1-4.9l/100km). Extra Urban 44.1-80.7mpg(6.4-3.5l/100km). Combined 35.8 68.9mpg (7.9-4.1l/100km). CO₂ emissions 186-109g/km. Figures may vary depending on driving style and conditions.

¹Finance example is for a BMW Select agreement for a new BMW 316i Sport Saloon with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 5.10p per mile.
²Finance example is for a BMW Select agreement for a new BMW 316i Sport Saloon with a contract mileage of 32,000 miles and excess mileage charge of 5.10p per mile.
Applies to new vehicles ordered between 1 July and 30 September 2014 and registered by 31 December 2014 (subject to availability). Retail customers only. *On the road cash price is based on manufacturer's recommended retail price and includes 3 year BMW Dealer Warranty, BMW Emergency Service, 12 months' road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. ^Optional final payment and option to purchase fee not payable if you opt to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement (vehicle condition, excess mileage and other charges may be payable). Finance available subject to credit acceptance to UK residents aged 18 or over. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Terms and conditions apply. Offer may be varied, withdrawn or extended at any time. 'BMW Select' is a form of hire-purchase agreement provided by BMW Financial Services (GB) Limited, Bartley Way, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9UF. We commonly introduce customers to BMW Financial Services, for which we may receive payment if you enter into an agreement with them. This introduction does not amount to independent financial advice. BMW EfficientDynamics reduces BMW emissions without compromising performance developments and is standard across the model range. †Test drive subject to applicant status and availability.

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